formerly had charge of the section but who is preparing to leave for a new post with the University of Michigan. Bunton will begin a series of several discussions and demonstrations on "The Properties of Light and Their Application to Astronomical Study."

GRANT AIDS DR. ROSS

THE ACADEMY'S curator of entomology, Dr. Edward S. Ross, recently received a $6,000 grant from the National Science Foundation which will enable him to complete a long-contemplated technical volume on a little-known order of insects, the Embioptera. Dr. Ross has been studying these organisms for 16 years and has done field work on them in many parts of the world. The grant was effective January 1 and runs for a year.

SCHOOL SHOW PROGRAM BOOMS

LAST SCHOOL YEAR 36,500 school children jammed into Morrison Planetarium for the Planetarium's school show program. A lot of children, yes, but during the present year, thanks to the efforts of George Bunton and Lorraine Rogers, attendance is rocketing well beyond last year's figure.

And in case you trip over a Boy or Cub Scout this month at the Academy, shoo him into the Planetarium. Cooperating with Bay Area Scouts—whose January theme is "Eyes on the Sky"—the Planetarium has opened seven Saturday morning shows during January expressly for Scouts. Some 3,200 Scouts are signed for these shows.

STATUE STARTS SPOUTING

IN THE ACADEMY COURT, two sleek, stylized whales began spouting water from their blow-holes in mid-month. The whales aren't lost, they are terrazzo, as sculptured by Robert Howard for the San Francisco building at the 1939-1940 World's Fair. Replacing the old seal pool, for many years a fixture in front of Steinhart Aquarium, the whale sculpture tops a shallow circular pool, to which is affixed on the exterior a concrete bench.

The sculpture spent many years in storage before it was decided to use it as a fountain. Installation of the fountain was a joint project of the Academy, the Art Commission and the Recreation and Park Department.

Terrazzo also covers the pedestal on which the whales rest.

NEW MEMBERS

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS were elected by the Council at its meeting of December 13, 1956:

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP
- Miss Mary L. Asplund
- Mr. Stephen L. Billeb
- Miss Beryl C. Briggs
- Miss Janice C. De Moor
- Mr. Boris H. Lakusta III
- Major James W. McFarland
- Mrs. Roy F. Nelson
- Mr. Gordon A. Riddervold
- Mr. S. Vaughn Spurlin

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
- Dr. and Mrs. Norton Benner
- Mr. Ray E. Hummel
- Mr. Clive Maritch
- Dr. William E. Vaughan

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP
- George Green
- Stephen Keefe
- Carol Piper
- John Thoman
- Christen Wemmer

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

NUMBER 205 JANUARY 1957

THE FIRST "STEP" TOWARD A HALL OF EARTH HISTORY

(See Page 3)

Published Monthly by
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK · SAN FRANCISCO

* * *

January Announcement

The regular January meeting of the California Academy of Sciences will be held at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, January 23, in the May Treat Morrison Auditorium. This month's Walter B. Scaife Foundation lecturer will be Howard Cleaves, ace cameraman in the specialized field of wildlife photography. Cleaves, who has been photographing wildlife since 1907, will treat his audience to a full-length motion picture of:

"Animals at Night in Color"

Wild animals work on two shifts, the day shift and the night shift. By means of a portable gasoline generator, Howard Cleaves has managed to turn night into day by using powerful floodlights penetrating 150 feet or more.

With the aid of this artificial daylight, Cleaves, whose black and white film program called "Midnight Movies" brought him nationwide fame, has made his first full-length color motion picture of wildlife at night.

Under the spell of a strong light beam, deer become transfixed, their eyes glowing like live coals in the dark. With devices for mounting lights on a tripod with his camera, on the bow of a boat and on his own shoulders, Cleaves has prowled through forest and bayou to record the night life of deer, raccoon, muskrat; osprey, chimney swift and great blue heron; turtle, frog and cicada.

The film is an amazing revelation of the nocturnal activities of varied animals, birds and other wildlife in full natural color—an exciting visual record of mysterious night happenings in the wilderness which Academy members and the public are cordially invited to see.

Special Academy Lecture

Open to Academy members and the public, a special lecture will be presented in May Treat Morrison Auditorium at 8:15 p. m., Wednesday, January 30. The lecture will be "The Swiss Everest-Lhotse Expedition" and will be given by Jurg Marmet, a member of the Swiss expedition that last May made the first ascent of Mt. Lhotse, a 27,000-foot-high neighbor of Mt. Everest, and then a few days later became the second expedition to reach the top of the world's loftiest mountain.

One of Europe's most highly regarded mountaineers, Marmet in the past few weeks has delivered his lecture to many gatherings in the United States. Described as "an exciting presentation of one of man's greatest adventures," the lecture is further enhanced by about 100 slides taken while the expedition was making its assaults on the two peaks.

February Meeting

The year's second monthly meeting on February 13 will feature a Walter B. Scaife Foundation lecture, "Between the Tides," by Robert C. Hermes, Audubon Screen Tour lecturer.

Giant Step for Academy

The first "step" toward the proposed Hall of Earth History at the Academy is a hard-packed mass of sandstone which is believed to be the "fossilized footprint" of a three-toed dinosaur, either Tyrannosaurus, as represented by the model in the photograph, or Allosaurus.

The Hall of Earth History is a long-time dream of the Academy staff. Funds are now being sought and if they are available, the hall will be one of the most impressive museum exhibits in the United States. The hall will present the history of life from the beginning, about two billion years ago, to the present, and the entire exhibit will be composed of three-dimensional material.

One of these three-dimensional links in the history of life presentation will be the footprint, probably made around 150 million years ago.

The print, shown here being studied by Joseph R. Slevin, the Academy's curator of herpetology, was found by James H. Stevenson of Price, Utah, in a coal mine near that town. It was resting on a vein of coal about 1,500 feet below the earth's surface.

The core of the footprint is a medium-grained sandstone, one of many layers of geologic formations which have covered the print since it was pressed into the earth. Around the core there is a thinner layer of finer-grained sandstone and the surface of the print which was adjacent to the coal vein is covered with a thin layer of coal.

In mid-December Richard M. Kennedy of San Francisco acquired the footprint and offered it to the Academy. His offer was quickly accepted and the print now awaits the proper location for display.

When Hall of Earth History becomes a reality the print will give continuity in the history of life pageant and will provide a visual idea of the size of the creatures which once dominated the earth.

Deserved Plaudits

Academy members have long been aware of the fine job the television department is accomplishing with "Science in Action," and more recently, "Explorers of Tomorrow." The efforts of Ben Draper and his staff, Dr. Earl Herald and Dr. Robert Orr, were recently recognized as well by the Thomas Alva Edison Foundation when it gave its 1956 award for the nation's outstanding TV station in the service of youth to KRON-TV, the station which telecasts the Academy programs. The Foundation mentioned its particular interest in "Science in Action" and "Explorers of Tomorrow" in making the award. KRON's general manager, Harold P. See, lauded the work of Draper, Dr. Herald and Dr. Orr in helping the station to win its kudos.

Further praises for "Science in Action" came in an editorial in the magazine *Science*, published November 16, 1956. The editorial said in part "the picture of scientists and their work is realistically, truthfully and entertainingly presented."

Astronomy Section Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Astronomy Section will be held at 8 p. m., Wednesday, January 30, in the Student Lecture Room. George Bunton, manager of the Planetarium, will conduct the meeting. He replaces Leon Salanave, who